Construction work in cantonment areas in Meerut

333. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether defence land comprising Survey No. 357/1751/2 known as No. 173-B, Abu Lane, Sadar Bazar, Meerut Cantt. is being sold contrary to Rule 15 of Cantonment Land Administration Rules, 1937;

(b) if so, the reasons and corrective action taken thereon;

(c) whether illegal construction has taken place on vacant defence land in connivance with Cantonment (Meerut) Authorities;

(d) whether Government have fixed any responsibility in the matter;

(e) whether High court of Allahabad has banned construction on said land; and

(f) if so, justification for carrying out construction work?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Holders of Occupancy Rights under Old Grant Terms have sold the land without the permission of the Government. The requests for mutation in the name of the unauthorised purchasers have not been accepted.

(c) to (f) The Cantonment Executive Officer has taken action from time to time under the provisions of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 to stop the unauthorised construction. However, the parties have approached various courts including the High Court of Allahabad. The Allahabad High Court has stayed the demolition of the unauthorised construction and has not banned the construction on the land.

Indian forces on UN peace keeping service

334. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) In how many UN peace keeping operations India has sent its forces, so far;

(b) whether UN pay salaries of soldiers during the period they are on UN service;

(c) if so, whether UN have cleared all the dues or something is yet to be paid;

(d) whether the injured or dead get some compensation; and

(e) the steps taken to get the dues back?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) India has sent its forces in 28 peace keeping operations.

(b) UN does not pay salaries to the soldiers on UN service. They are paid Overseas Service Allowance by the Government of India. The UN reimburses the troop costs to the Government.

(c) Troop costs on account of India's contributions to UN peace missions in Somalia and Angola are yet to be cleared by the UN.

(d) An amount of US $ 50,000 is paid by the UN to the next to kin of a soldier who dies under the UN flag in UN peace keeping operations. In cases of injury, the compensation paid is based on the percentage of disability and is pro rata to the overall compensation amount of US $ 50,000.

(e) The UN reimburses the dues when funds become available to it from the Member Nations by way of assessed contributions.